



STATE OF MICHIGAN

[DATE]

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are writing in regard to your child, [INSERT STUDENT'S NAME].

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature and then-Governor Rick Snyder passed Public Act 306 of 2016, MCL 380.1280f (commonly referred to as the Read By Grade Three Law), which requires schools to identify students in kindergarten through third grade who are struggling with reading and writing and provide them with additional support services. The law also requires schools to retain a student in the third grade if the student's score on the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) indicates that they are more than a full grade level behind. This year's class of third graders—who were in kindergarten when Public Act 306 of 2016 passed—will be the first cohort of students affected by the retention aspects of the law.

According to the Michigan Department of Education, [INSERT STUDENT'S FIRST NAME]'s M-STEP score may require them to repeat 3rd grade. However, you have the right to request a good cause exemption within 30 days of this letter if you wish for your child to continue to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade this fall. You also have the right to request a meeting with your child's school to discuss the retention requirement and the standards and processes for a good cause exemption.

We understand that this may be difficult news to hear, but your child's school is ready and willing to help you understand your options. **Please contact the school office right away to discuss the best path forward for [INSERT STUDENT'S FIRST NAME].**

Even if your child is behind in reading, the law permits a good cause exemption that would allow your child to advance to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, if:

- You requested a good cause exemption and your child's school determines that being promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is in the best interest of the child;
- Your child has an accommodation plan in place such as an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan;
- English is not your child's first language and they have been in an English Language Learner Program for fewer than three years;
- Your child received intensive reading interventions for two or more years, and was previously retained in kindergarten, first or second grade; or,
- Your child has been in their current school for fewer than two years and did not receive an appropriate individual reading improvement plan.

The State of Michigan supports you in making a decision that is right for your family. More information and letter translations can be found at: [mi.gov/earlyliteracy](http://mi.gov/earlyliteracy).

Para recibir una copia de esta carta en español, contacte a la escuela de su hijo/a que está en tercer grado o visite al siguiente enlace: [mi.gov/earlyliteracy](http://mi.gov/earlyliteracy).

للحصول على نسخة من هذه الرسالة باللغة العربية ، يرجى الاتصال بإدارة مدرسة الطالب للصف الثالث الابتدائي أو الذهاب إلى الموقع التالي: [mi.gov/earlyliteracy](http://mi.gov/earlyliteracy).